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SECURITY INFORMATION

76090
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7 April 1953

Memorandum for Mr. Amory

Subject: Estimative Support for Planning Board Agenda of 6 April

The following is the picture on estimates related to the agenda items tentatively listed for consideration on the dates indicated.

10 April

1. Near East. We have recently covered Egypt (NIE-76) and a general estimate (NIE-73). [REDACTED] is in the mill, scheduled for production in July. Terms of reference are being considered by the Board today, and some acceleration is possible. However, since this is a first estimate, there would almost certainly be more than the usual loss in precision by hurrying it up, and my judgment is that it would be at least as useful to the carrying out of a policy as to the framing of one. The immediate questions seem clear enough for policy purposes. Recommend no change.

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15 April

25X6A

2. [REDACTED] No estimate planned.

3. Satellites. NIE-87 is on the way, scheduled for May delivery, and contributions were due on 1 April. They had not been received as of today, and State is being pushed. In the normal course we would have it by about 1 May without undue pressure, but no kind of draft (other than the State contribution) by 15 April, in the absence of crash signals. I doubt the advisability of acceleration. The policy issues do not turn on narrow intelligence judgments of the degree of disaffection or anything else. Moreover, the EIC content of the estimate is hard to work out correctly and has no policy bearing to speak of. Although a closely ex post facto estimate is ordinarily undesirable, in this case I think the actual harm is minimal.

17 April

4. East-West trade. NIE-59 should be out this week. The estimate of relative advantage of present controls has not been laid on. We should work on this in advance of the meeting to be sure we play an adequate part.

After 20 April

5. Volunteer Freedom Corps. SE-40 should be out this week.

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6. Continental Defense. The Edwards Committee continues to aim at 15 May.

7. Panama and Venezuela. These are not now scheduled. The prior estimate on Venezuela (NIE-86) is still good generally, however. Panama is a hard one to estimate to last for any time. Both of these are Mr. Cutler's ideas, and were not being worked on in State. Therefore, early drafts are unlikely.

8. Argentina, Guatemala, Chile, Brazil. Argentina (NIE-89) is due in June, with contributions due on 8 June. Guatemala (NIE-84) is due in April and should make 23 or 30 April IAC. Chile (NIE-85) is due in May and should make it. Brazil (NIE-86) is due in June, with contributions due by 7 May. Thus, the priority order is Guatemala, Chile, Brazil, Argentina. Suggest we call this to State's attention, so that we could keep to that policy order in the absence of over-riding considerations.

9. South Asia. NIE-79 is about ready for the Board, and could make early May without strain. State's policy draft is still in the recesses.

10. North Africa. NIE-69 covers and is still in date sufficiently.

11. Yugoslavia. NIE-93 is scheduled for July. State's draft is not far advanced, but there may well be major issues here before July. Should be watched closely for possible acceleration.

12. NSC 26 series. No estimate desirable.

13. NSC 137 (Electromagnetic warfare). SE-38 should be out by the NSC deadline. (16 April, I believe).

14. NSC 79. Don't see how an estimate could help.

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